

as long as it was gold. That is the real position. I mentioned the other day that felt hats were brought in from a certain country and offered here at thirty cents apiece—\$3.60 a dozen. I will not go into the details of these matters; the hon. Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) did so yesterday. Now, are we to let that continue or not?

An hon. MEMBER: We need hats.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly; and we make them at home.

Mr. MANION: We need something under them, too.

Mr. BENNETT: Is that to continue or not? Reference has been made to the fact that we changed the value of the pound sterling for duty purposes. Let us look at what we did do. The London Times said we were within our rights in doing what we did. Why? Parliament placed a duty upon imports from Great Britain based on the value of the pound being \$4.86. A twenty-five per cent duty on that meant \$1.21—we will say \$1.22 for the sake of argument. When the pound fell to \$3.60 that meant 90 cents duty. Parliament having given a protection of \$1.22, had authorized this government by a section in the statute to protect the country when that fell to 90 cents. And we did it. We will do it again to-morrow if necessary. What would have happened if we had not done it? That is all you have to ask yourselves.

An hon. MEMBER: What would have happened?

Mr. BENNETT: Every industry in this country engaged in that particular line of activity would have been snuffed out of business unless that action had been taken.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh no.

An hon. MEMBER: Utter rot.

An hon. MEMBER: You don't believe that.

Mr. BENNETT: I not only believe it; I know it, I have seen the cost figures.

An hon. MEMBER: Nonsense.

Mr. BENNETT: Of course there are within the constituencies of hon. gentlemen opposite industries that will give you the day and the date with respect to it, and the figures as well.

An hon. MEMBER: Nonsense.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BRADETTE: The right hon. Prime Minister knows that many industries are being closed on account of the tariff policies of the present government.

Mr. BENNETT: Why, the hon. member surely with his recently acquired knowledge knows better than that. I mentioned the pound sterling. The same thing happened with respect to other matters as well. Wherever it was necessary for the purpose of protecting—I use the word deliberately—the industrial life of this country that has been built up during all these years from being destroyed by the dumping upon our markets of the products of any country at any price they could get, we took the proper steps to that end. And what is more, I believe that any government occupying our position would have done the same. Let me go a step further. Do you suppose Hon. Walter Runciman took that step lightly? Do you suppose that the government in which you have as strong free traders as he and Mr. Samuel took that step lightly? Why did they do it? They did it because every other country in the world had protected its industrial life from destruction, and they said, "The time has come for England to do the same."

Mr. YOUNG: Did Mr. Samuel say that?

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Samuel, I said, was in the government that did it.

Mr. YOUNG: Did he approve?

Mr. BENNETT: He did not approve of the tariff, but he approved the prohibition against importations; he made no protest against it. There is the story. Every country in the world without exception, Mr. Speaker, occupies that position. England was the last; England now is in that position. England has placed a tariff upon her statute books.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not against the dominions.

Mr. BENNETT: I am coming to the Imperial conference—yes, against the dominions in some cases. She has placed a statute on her books containing those provisions to lessen imports.

Now, may I quote an eminent authority as to the reason why that has been done. It is rather worth reading because he makes it perfectly clear as to the reason—that there is no other method by which it could be done except this method which I have mentioned. I propose to read these words to the house because they are the considered opinion of a very eminent authority, and I do not believe